GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5233
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
SHIFTING OF CULTIVATION FROM CEREALS TO EDIBLE OILSEEDS
AJAY CHAKRABORTY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of wheat and rice during 2000-01 and 2001-02 and the estimated demand for the same;

(b) whether the Government are taking measures to encourage the cultivators to shift their crop from cereals to edible oilseeds and pulses for which there is a shortage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): The production of Wheat and Rice in 2000-01 and 2001-02 is as under:

Year	Wheat	Rice (Million tonnes)
2000-01	68.76	84.87
2001-02 (estimated)	73.53	90.75

Separate demand estimates for Wheat and Rice are not generated.

(b)&(c): The Government is emphasizing crop diversification keeping in view the soilhealth problems being encountered by growing crops like cereals followed by cereals. The crop diversification is also advocated keeping in view imports of oilseeds and pulses. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State AgriculturaUniversities (SAUs) are carrying out research in crop diversification. A number of pulse and oilseed crops have been identified and released by the ICAR for diversification ofcereal based cropping systems in different regions of the country. ICAR is alsoconducting front-line demonstrations for the benefit of farmers. Besides a tilt has been built in farour of these crops under Minimum Support Price policy during the last twoseasons, where relatively higher increases in prices have been given for Pulses & Oilseeds, than those for Wheat & Rice so as to encourage farmers to grow these crops.